

## G.O.P. Charges that:

I Should have done this long ago

- A. No hard evidence -- unconfirmed, usually unreliable refugee reports only -- photographic surveillance limited by hurricane and mechanical failures -- field type MRBM's and IRBM excavations had little earlier to see.
- B. Had we acted without evidence, regarded as unjustified, OAS sanction doubtful, blockade might not have been recognized, without declaration of war. Allies would have been split, would have condemned us, helping Khrushchev to retaliate in Berlin or elsewhere.
- C. Even though Soviet experts were certain no strategic weapons would be stationed off of Soviet territory, President ordered (and secured OAS approval of) stepped-up surveillance.

II Should have gone all the way, since USSR backing down

- A. For first time, direct military confrontation with USSR -- and they turned back.
  - 1. because, though capable of being stepped-up as President <sup>WARPED,</sup> would, it was sufficiently low-key, to
    - a. not require or justify violent response armed <sup>AT</sup> real threat
    - b. win initial backing of OAS, allies, world opinion.
  - 2. because it was U.S. Navy (superior) on U.S. water.
- B. Unilateral action would have lost all this and heavy casualties without committing Khrushchev if he didn't want to, and justifying Berlin grab if he wanted as world's attention directed and blame on us. (180 million vs 2 million)

III Should not agree to guarantee Castro

- A. No guarantee -- only repeat of assurance not to <sup>INVADE</sup> ~~trade~~ -- back to status quo of 1-2 months ago before Soviets introduced the threat.
- B. Effect on Castro of having rug pulled out from under could be profound.
- C. UN will seek "reciprocal measures to assure peace in the Caribbean area.

IV Acted out of political motivation. NO!

- A. Acted as soon as evidence on hand and course of action decided upon, etc. (see I)
- B. Cut out own and Cabinet's campaign trips, to dismay of those trying to raise funds and turn-out
- C. Secured support of Ike and Hoover as well as Truman and leaders.